

BEING WHITE

Courier Pittsburgh Pa

By HORACE R. CAYTON

Adolescents Are Taking
Drugs So That They Can
Feel White for a Day

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily express the editorial opinion of The Pittsburgh Courier.—The Editors.)

WE were at a party at Jackie Ormes' house. If you don't know her, and you should, she draws cartoons for The Pittsburgh Courier. The conversation was brisk and lively, but all of a sudden I heard someone say, "Those kids just turn white overnight."

This statement intrigued my imagination to the end. As soon as I could I was talking to the person next to me. I hollered over and said, "What do you mean, turn white overnight? Is that some kind of new black-no-more like Schuyler was writing about, or is it a skin bleach that I haven't heard about?"



Mr. Cayton

The man who was talking answered, "We were talking about these adolescent Negro delinquents. That's what they call it—turning white overnight. Of course it doesn't change their color but they feel like they're white anyway. At least they say they feel like they're white."

I DIDN'T get the pitch at all at this point so I went over to him and said, "Spell this out to me. First you say somebody turns white overnight and then you say that their color doesn't change. Just what are you talking about?"

"Here is what they do," answered my friend. "They buy some cheap wine—and it has to be cheap wine to work—and then dissolve a benzedrine tablet in it. They get sort of slap-happy from drinking this concoction and would be willing to run in front of a locomotive or perhaps even a tough white cop and challenge him."

"That's what they mean when they say they turn white overnight—they lose their fears as Negroes. They call this drink 'sneaky pete.' When they are charged up with it they don't feel like Negroes any more. It's kind of like Sinclair Lewis' Kingblood Royal in reverse. They're the same color only they just have a different psychology."

I HAD HAD SOME slight acquaintance with benzedrine but I had never heard of mixing it with wine to make "sneaky petes." When I reached home I looked benzedrine up in the dictionary and found out that in the first place it is the trade name for amphetamine, a drug which is soluble in water.

Here is how the medical dictionary I bought for just such purposes as this spells it out: "Amphetamine, and its sulphate act as decongestants of throat, nose and ears; increase blood pressure like adrenoline and ephedrine but more slowly and longer; stimulates and excites the brain by checking the formation of poisonous aldehyde which depresses respiration or oxygen uptake of the brain, thus overcoming fatigue . . . attacks."

THOSE ARE a lot of big words, but here is what I make out of it. Benzedrine does something chemically to a person's system which gives him a lot of courage—over courage, false courage. Sometimes when I have had to speak before an audience and have been most frightened and fatigued, I have taken a little pinch of it and it has picked me up. Let me say right now, though, that it's not a good thing to do because it's right hard on the system.

But what's the moral of all this—and all my little pieces end up with a moral. These frightened young Negro kids who have little to look forward to; who haven't had the protection and care of emotionally stable parents; these "frightened children of frightened parents" get tired of being treated like Negroes. They get tired of being afraid of the fears that beset all Negroes in this white society. So they say to themselves, "Well, for tonight I'm going to buy some of that white powdered stuff called benza-something and some Virginia Dare wine and see, by God, how it feels to be white."

NEGRO GROUP FORMED TO CURB DELINQUENCY

**JUDGE KNOX TERMS ACTION
BY LOCAL COMMITTEE AS
COMMENDABLE**

The initiative in the fight against juvenile delinquency and law violations among the young colored residents of Glynn county has been taken by a group of local prominent colored citizens who have secured a staunch supporter to their plan in the person of Superior Court Judge Gordon Knox.

The idea has been in the formative stages for several months, and the local advocates of the plan have held several conferences with Judge Knox during his visits to the city. As the result of the preliminary conferences, a colored committee has been formed as a volunteer group to assist the court in cases dealing with colored people.

Dr. W. A. Patterson, local colored physician, has been chairman of the committee, which includes E. V. Wright, a veteran letter carrier, as secretary, and W. M. Floyd, barber; D. D. Hall, colored mortician; Charles A. Moore, insurance man, and J. S. Wilkerson, principal of Risley High school.

The committee, through its membership, will undertake to investigate the background of young colored men and women who are brought into court for law violation, and to determine if possible and correct the cause of the crimes. From the results of such investigations, the committee will also be called on for recommendations to the court regarding the disposition of various cases.

Through the committee, Judge Knox will be familiarized with the full facts and background in such cases as well as the recommendations of the committee before meting out punishment.

Commenting on the idea following a discussion with representatives of the committee today, Judge Knox termed the plan highly commendable. "These colored citizens are setting a splendid example," he said. "The court will cooperate fully with them in future cases, and such a committee will go a long way in reducing the number of violations by young people and in assisting the court in arriving at a satisfactory disposition in many of the cases."

Brunswick, Ga. News

March 24, 1947

Delinquency Plan

Prominent local colored citizens have evolved a plan to combat juvenile delinquency and law violations among the young colored residents of Glynn county. The plan is the result of careful committee study and has been mapped out during several conferences with Superior Court Judge Gordon Knox.

Briefly, the committee will undertake to look into the background of young colored men and women who are brought into the court for law violations. Every effort will then be made to determine and correct the cause of the crimes if possible. The court will call on the committee from time to time for recommendations regarding the disposition of various cases. Through the committee, Judge Knox will be thus familiarized with the complete facts before imposing sentences where necessary.

In taking this stand on the side of law and order, local colored citizens are to be complimented. With the plan, however, must go a very keen sense of responsibility so that every case is treated in complete fairness. Without proper care, both plan and proponents might lose the confidence of all concerned.

It is good to note that Judge Knox himself is not only in accord with the plan's objectives but seemingly is confident that it will work. In commending the idea, he says: "These colored citizens are setting a splendid example. The court will cooperate fully with them in future cases, and such a committee will go a long way in reducing the number of violations by young people and in assisting the court in arriving at a satisfactory disposition in many of the cases."

TUSKEGEE HEAD URGES BETTER ENVIRONMENT

**Asks For Programs Offering
Challenge To Citizenship**

NEGRO RALLY CONCLUDED

The proper approach to the problem of juvenile delinquency is to plan for "more democratic and more abundant living," Dr. F. D. Patterson, president of Tuskegee Institute, said yesterday.

His address climaxed a two-day TriState youth rally sponsored by the Negro Division of the Memphis Youth Service Council, with the co-operation of all the negro schools, churches, the Y.M.C.A., the

Y.W.C.A., Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Positive Programs

Dr. Patterson spoke at the closing meeting of the rally at Mason Temple, 958 South Fifth. He said: "Children are human beings, or people in the process of becoming adults. Our job is to surround them with the kind of environment in which wholesome growth is possible."

"The need is for occupying youth with positive programs of action which challenge them to better citizenship. Instead of saying, 'don't do this and don't do that,' let's talk about what they can do that brings out their better qualities."

Essay Contest Planned

"I believe that if we are going to do the job by youth that needs to be done, it is going to call for much larger investment in schools, in health, and in recreation, both from private and public funds. I think both definitely are in the picture. It is the soundest investment we can make."

Calls For Evangelism Of Youth



Dr. F. D. Patterson (right), president of Tuskegee Institute, conferred yesterday with Prof. E. L. Washburn, chairman of the Negro Division of the Memphis Youth Service Council, on means of preventing juvenile delinquency after addressing a TriState negro youth rally.

gro youths participated, had as its objective a study of juvenile delinquency and the evangelism of youth. Prof. E. L. Washburn, principal of Lincoln School and general chairman, and Rev. G. W. Golden, executive secretary of evangelism for the Methodist Church, said that as a follow up to the rally, a program of personal visitation is planned through the schools and churches and in the homes. Professor Washburn said youth interest will be spurred by an essay contest in which prizes will be awarded for the best student-written articles on the subject: "Courtesy and Better Conduct."

RACIAL TENSION UP IN EAST BRONX AREA

**Report by Hunter College Unit
and Mayor's Committee**

Cites Delinquency Rise

Increasing interracial and inter-religious conflicts in the Boulevard-Prospect area of the East Bronx have been indicated by a threefold increase in juvenile delinquency there. This was reported yesterday in a survey made public by the Mayor's Committee on

Unity and the Political Science and Sociology Departments of Hunter College.

Delinquency in the Bronx area has reached such proportions, the study said, that the majority of the residents questioned asked for more police protection, decried the lack of recreational facilities and contended that "kid gangs" were a main source of "trouble."

This was in reference to mugging, raiding, robbing and general nuisance, attributed to youngsters. "People carry around dangerous weapons because they are afraid of being physically attacked," the report said.

"The increase in the number of children found with brass knuckles, knives, blackjacks, home-made pistols and such 'demonstrates more clearly than anything else the rise in social tension and friction in the Boulevard-Prospect area," the report said.

On the basis of their findings, the authors of the report have outlined an extensive "action-program" to minimize and ameliorate group tensions as it simultaneously meets the needs of the young persons in the neighborhood of more than 200,000 persons. The study is one of several conducted by the Mayor's Committee into the background of intergroup conflict in specific "danger areas."

The Boulevard-Prospect area is bounded on the north and south by Tremont Avenue and 149th Street and by the Bronx River and Prospect Avenue on the east and west, respectively. In 1940 more than 59 per cent of the population consisted of persons born in Russia and Poland. Since then, Negroes and Puerto Ricans have been steadily moving into the neighborhood, causing a decrease in the number of other groups.

Physically, the housing is not substandard, the report continued. However, at least 20 per cent of the buildings are in a sufficiently bad state of repair as to indicate a blight condition. Three-fourths of the lots are littered with refuse, broken glass and other dangerous encumbrances that "constitute a menace to the health and safety of the residents."

The authors cited the rise in juvenile delinquency as a manifestation of social disorganization. In 1940 there were 107 cases of delinquency. In 1944, the number reached 278. Seventy-three per cent of those persons interviewed said it was not a good neighborhood in which to raise children, while 70 per cent accused the youthful gangs of muggings, robberies and disorderly conduct.

"A common denominator to all our neighborhood projects has been the finding that increases of racial and religious tensions are related to an increase of social disorganization in the community," the report noted. "Anti-Semitic and anti-Negro activity have been increasingly spearheaded by juvenile delinquency."

One of the basic methods for alleviating juvenile delinquency, the National Recreation Association, authors declared, was the creation of more recreation facilities. Using standard figures of the National Recreation Association, the report said: "Here there should be fifty."

eight playgrounds; instead, there are exactly eight. There should be ten playgrounds; actually there is only one." *New York, N.Y.*

Other suggestions were for more active programs by churches and synagogues, development by the Police Athletic League of can- teens for teen-age groups. The re- port said that the needs of only 7,500 out of 51,000 children under 19 years of age were met. *4-24-47*

"Unless the residents cooperate in exerting pressure upon the city to enact improvements immedi- ately," the report warned, "social dis- integration will accelerate."

The authors of the report were Pearl Handshuh, Charlotte L. Simon and Laura Zelman, honor students at Hunter College. Super- vision of the study was under- taken jointly by Rosalind Tough, Associate Professor of Sociology; Ruth G. Weintraub, Associate Professor of Political Science, and Bernard Lander and Isador Chein, associate director and research associate, respectively, of the Mayor's Committee. Sixty Hunter students assisted in the interview- ing and the collecting of data.

B. C.: Teen Towners

Three years ago, Jack Hutchings, then editor of the weekly Herald in Pentic- ton, B. C., decided some preventive meas- ure was needed to combat growing war- time juvenile delinquency. His solution was a Teen Town, a club which teen- age boys and girls ran by themselves.

Primarily designed for average teen- agers, rather than for delinquents, the Town was open to anybody between the ages of 13 and 19. It elected its own may- or, council, police force, and court. Mis- demeanors were punished by suspension or expulsion. Capital crimes were smok- ing, drinking, gambling, and swearing.

In B. C., Teen Town activities multi- plied rapidly. Teen Towners run news- papers in most centers, and weekly or bi-weekly dances in every Town. They occupy vacant stores, warehouses, and theaters, operate baby-watching services, hobby workshops, and sports tourna- ments; and stage concerts and shows to collect funds for community centers.

Last week, mayors from 31 Teen Towns representing 10,000 boys and girls met in Vancouver for their second annual conference. Their main work was the framing of a declaration of the rights and responsibilities of teen-agers. The choice and order of their respon- sibilities underscored the value of their organization: (1) education, (2) home duties, (3) good judgment in choosing friends, (4) respect for others' opin- ions, (5) no discrimination against race, religion, or color. *Man 8-15-47*

Asks 'Impressive' Penalty for Boy Killers, 12 and 13

Afro-American
Baltimore, Md. Sat. 5-31-47
Youngsters Who Confessed Shooting Farmer

With His Own Rifle Saved From Murder Trial

STATESVILLE, N.C.—Remand- ing two teen-age slayers to juve- nile court, Judge Felix E. Alley last Tuesday suggested a return to the old "whipping post" for dealing with criminals too young to be tried for capital offenses.

The youths were George Phifer, 12, and Ernest Mitchell, 13, of Mooresville, who had confessed killing Roy Lipe, 57-year-old farm- er, at his home in East Moores- ville. A grand jury investigation brought a murder indictment against them.

However, according to the At- torney General's ruling, read in Iredeil Superior Court last week, "a child under 14 years of age cannot be tried for a capital offense."

Suggests "Whipping Post" Commenting on the ruling, Judge Alley suggested the "whip- ping post" method, remarking that "men have to die for a cap- ital offense and boys should at least be corrected in some im- pressive way."

"Growing juvenile delinquency is caused by no home restraints and no corrective institutions for the children allowed to run at large," he stated, charging that 51% of the major crimes are com- mitted by youths who know the courts can't do anything about it."

The boys are reported to have told officers that they killed Lipe with his own .22 rifle and that after the slaying, they spent the rest of the afternoon hunting squirrels with the rifle.

Lipe's home had been ransacked and a robbery motive was inject- ed into the probe, but it was dis- missed.

'Boys Town' Group Is Formed in Huntington

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. — De- termined to do something defi- nite toward helping juvenile delinquency in this city, Eugene A. Robbins has organized a group of boys into a club called "Colored Boys' Town." *Courier*

He has also purchased a few lots on which he hopes to event- ually be able to develop a recrea- tional and civic center for the boys. *5-27-1-11-47*

Mr. Robbins is in need of ma- terial and moral support, and friends who are interested are urged to write him at 913 Bruce Street, Huntington, W. Va.

ROGERS SAYS:

Pittsburgh, Pa.
RECENT reports on juvenile delinquency in New York City show a higher rate for Ne- groes than white, sex by sex.

If this is taken as proof that the Negro rate is higher because Negroes are more underprivi- leged, well and good. But if it is taken, as is more likely to be the case, as a so-called race tendency then such statistics are utterly false and un- scientific.

The impres- sion I have on read- ing racial statis- tics of this sort, whether issued by city, State or Nation, is that of a cook who dumps his meat, potatoes, pas- try, coffee, cream, sugar, etc., into the same pot and then hands you the concoction as a correctly prepared meal.

Sat. 7-26-47
HOKUM NO. 1 IN statistics of this sort. There are no "two races" in America. Since there is so much of the white in the black and of the black in the white what we have is an Ameri- can people or dozens of different shades of complexion, ranging from white to black, or black to white, as you wish.

Such statistics might have been logical in 1690's. Today with the so-called Negro, a mixture of almost every human variety under the sun, they are about as scientific as the belief that "the man in the moon" is Judas Iscariot.

HOKUM NO. 2. Juvenile delinquency is the result of social, not racial conditions. In lands, as say England, where "race" is not a monomania, research on juvenile delinquency is based on income groups, occupation and education of the parents; whether the mother leaves the home for work in the day, and so on.

Were this the procedure in America you'd find that not only are certain Negro groups less delinquent than certain other Negro groups but than certain white groups. Thanks to higher incomes, better educa- tion and culture in general, num- bers of Negroes, despite color

prejudice, are more law-abiding, have a higher respect for the rights of their fellow-man than numbers of whites.

THE SO-CALLED upper-class Negro is rarely an accused in the courts. His cases, like those of the whites, are civil ones. For years I was reporter in a police court in a Negro neighborhood and the vast majority of accused were lower-class Negroes of limited education and culture.

I noted the same as regards whites in police courts, not only in America but in other lands. Better education, higher wage standards, better trained parents in the homes, and cleaner politics are the answer to juvenile delinquency, regardless of color.

Of couses, we are always go- ing to have the criminal type, people with twisted mentality in both upper and lower classes, white and Negro, as Loeb and Leopold of the white millionaire class; William Heirens, univer- sity student of the white middle class, and Ward Carraway, rap- ist, of the Negro lower-class.

Sometimes those with criminal tendencies are fortunate enough to be born with slicker, shrewder, more cautious natures and they operate within so-called law as did Hitler and Mussolini.

THE ANSWER TO this slicker criminal type is also education of the masses. Increase modern sociological thinking in the South by as little as twenty- five per cent and creatures such as Ellender, Rankin and East- land would have no more luck riding on the backs of the race- obsessed white masses than a rodeo cowboy would a busking bronco. *Sat. 7-26-47*

Hokum No. 3. Statistics on Ne- gro crime and the extensive pub- licity a Negro criminal gets in the white press give the impres- sion that the Negro criminal is the greater menace to the nation. But while the percentage of Negro criminals is higher than the white, the actual number of white criminals is far higher and therefore the greater men- ace.

Most of the crimes and wrongs against white persons are com- mitted, not by Negroes, but by other whites.

Race and racial statistics are capitalistic hokum. Whichever way anyone with a 1947 mind looks at this whole race busi- ness in America he cannot help but see it's a madness of the many for the gain of the few.



Mr. Rogers

Device To Lessen

Train Wrecks

Birmingham, Ala.
Negro's Invention

MIAMI, Fla., Oct. 31 (AP) — William Thomas Parker, a South- ern Negro, who worked in rail- road shops "before most people were born," displayed prelimi- nary patent papers today of an invention which represents a lifetime of thought on how to prevent railroad wrecks.

Parker, formerly of Mobile and Birmingham, showed patent of- fice papers on a railroad car with triple wheel surfaces. *Tri.*

All three wheel surfaces are on one axle. Should the main wheel leave the track, another wheel surface would support the car. And this surface is so formed that by running it along a "re- railer," which would be set in the roadbed at approaches to cities, the main wheel surface would be restored to the rail. Parker, giv- ing his age as 70-odd years, said that with his invention, a train could run for miles off the track, then be automatically re-railed without ever slowing down.

"They could quip a whole rail- road for the price of one or two wrecks," he added. *10-31-47*

Parker began his career in 1895. He is living now on a \$55-a- month pension.

The New State Welfare Director

Acting Gov. Thompson could not have found a man better fitted to serve as Director of the State Welfare Department than Bill Ireland, who assumes the post Jan. 1. *12-19-47 House Inform*

For 26 years Ireland has been head of the State's Training School for Boys at Milledgeville, an institution to which he originally went in his youth as an inmate. The example he has set and his insight into their problems and thinking have resulted in the rehabilitation of countless Georgia youths. With remarkably few exceptions, he has made good citizens of his charges and they, in turn, have held for him an admiration and affection which speaks wonders for his character.

Moreover, the Boys Training School has received nation-wide recognition for its work. Due largely to Ireland's efforts, it not only boasts a splendid plant but also a vocational education program which has attracted the attention of specialists in the field from all over the country. *Constitution*

The Constitution congratulates Mr. Ireland on his well-deserved promotion and the Acting Governor on his commendable disposition to put capable career men, rather than broken-down politicians, in administrative positions. *12-19-47*

Incidentally, now that Mr. Ireland is in a position where he will have more influence, we trust the State will not be long in establishing the Training School for Negro Boys for which he and we have pleaded so long. *2nd*

Kid Gangs, Racial Tensions Blamed On Lack Of Recreation

NEW YORK.—(ANP)—A lack of community recreational facilities was blamed last week for the existence of kid gangs, juvenile delinquency and increasing racial tensions in the Boulevard-Prospect area of the East Bronx where Russians, Poles, Negroes and Puerto Ricans live.

According to a report by the Mayor's Committee on Unity and the political sciences and sociology departments of Hunter College, "a common denominator to all our neighborhood projects has been the finding that increases of racial and religious tensions are related to an increase of social disorganization in the community."

"Anti-Semitic and anti-Negro activity have been increasingly spearheaded by juvenile delinquency gangs, a manifestation of the disorganization," the report disclosed. "Here there should be 58 playgrounds; instead, there are exactly eight. There should be 10 playfields; actually there is only one."

PROTECTION ASKED

A majority of adult residents of the area asked for more police protection, decried the lack of recreational facilities and contended that "kid gangs" were a main source of "trouble." The 1940 census revealed that more than 50 per cent of the area was populated by persons born in Russia and Poland, but since then Negroes and Puerto Ricans have steadily moved into the neighborhood, which accommodates approximately 200,000 individuals.

The report warned that "unless the residents cooperate in exerting pressure upon the city to enact improvements immediately, social disintegration will accelerate." The kids roam the streets with "brass knuckles, knives, blackjacks, home-made pistols, and such demonstrates more clearly than anything else the rise in social tension and friction in the area," the report revealed.

The neighborhood accommodates approximately 51,000 children under 19 years of age, who indulge in muggings, robberies and disorderly conduct.



PRESENTS FOR ALL—Esopus, N.Y. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, with the aid of Faye Emerson Roosevelt, her daughter-in-law, distributes presents at the Wiltwyck School for Boys. It was part of Mrs. Roosevelt's fourth Christmas party for the boys in the inter-racial, non-sectarian institution for youngsters committed by the New York City Children's of the board of directors of the privately financed school. (Keystone Picture).



Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt at the Wiltwyck School for Boys

The New York Times

26 Mrs. Roosevelt Reads Dickens an Hour To 80 Attentive Boys, 8 to 12 Years *new york times wed 12-24-47*

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES

ESOPUS, N. Y., Dec. 23—Eighty boys, 8 to 12 years old, paid tribute here today to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt by remaining silent for one hour during her reading of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. When Mrs. Roosevelt finished the book, she said: "Merry Christmas to all you boys. Now you can eat."

It was her fourth Christmas party at the Wiltwyck School for Boys, an inter-racial, non-sectarian institution for boys, committed by the New York City Children's Court and Welfare Department as delinquent and neglected.

Previously the parties had been held in Mrs. Roosevelt's home at Hyde Park. This year the boys assisted that the celebration be at the school in the new Eleanor Roosevelt Hall. Mrs. Roosevelt, a member of the board of directors, was accompanied by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt.

Robert L. Cooper, director of the privately financed school, introduced the guest of honor. But this rapt was quite unnecessary. The boys knew Mrs. Roosevelt, for she spends much time during the year at the school.

Mrs. Roosevelt sat directly in front of the group. Before she began reading there was a spontaneous surge forward and the boys surrounded her. As she opened the book and began to read a hush fell over the room, broken only by the rustle of pine trees outside. She read for an hour and not a child left his seat.

The boys helped Mrs. Roosevelt and her daughter-in-law hand out presents given by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Brandt, owner of the Brandt chain of theatres.

Matron Reveals Problems That Caused Riot At Girl's Home.

Fri. 3-14-47

Atlanta, Ga. Daily World

WASHINGTON — (ANP) — A riot Sunday at the National Training School for girls here brought to the light some of the underlying social problems of teen-age girls.

In sentencing 19-year-old Aurelia C. Nickens to 60 days in the workhouse on two assault charges, Judge Ellen K. Ready remarked that "there's something wrong there when they have a riot. Someone should be put in there who can take care of things."

Mrs. Rosa Cooper Smith, superintendent of the school since October, '44, explained "we have a difficult problem here. The Negro girls who are committed to us are between the ages of 14 and 18. They are matured. They have been ducked by the policeman since the age of nine or ten. They are more women than girls."

REHABILITATION TRIED

"Society---our schools, our police, our juvenile court---has tried to rehabilitate them and failed." Mrs. Smith continued. "It is after this failure that they come to us."

Aurelia was fined \$25.00 for attacking Miss Thelma Taylor, a matron she accused of spying on her while visiting with relatives, Miss Frances Blackhear, acting assistant superintendent and two other officers. The riot occurred when police answered the call for help and 40 girl inmates in Shaw cottage came to Aurelia's rescue.

Judge Raedy sent two of Aurelia's assistants back to the home for disciplinary action and sent Aurelia to the workhouse for 60 days, because the girl had no money to pay her fine. She will be returned to the home when she finishes her sentence, Judge Raedy said.

"Aurelia had been given a psychiatric examination," said Miss Carey Maddox, the school's social worker. Miss Maddox was credited with restoring order after the riot started. The two police officers were forced to call for reinforcements.

field State Farm whose talks with Dorothy Gordon, moderator of THE NEW YORK TIMES Youth Forum, were broadcast last night over WQXR.

An appeal for a more cooperative attitude by the entire community in helping young people adjust to normal lives upon finishing their terms was made by Miss Gordon. She was seconded in this by Edwin J. Lukas, executive director of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, and Henrietta Additon, superintendent of Westfield State Farm, speakers on the program.

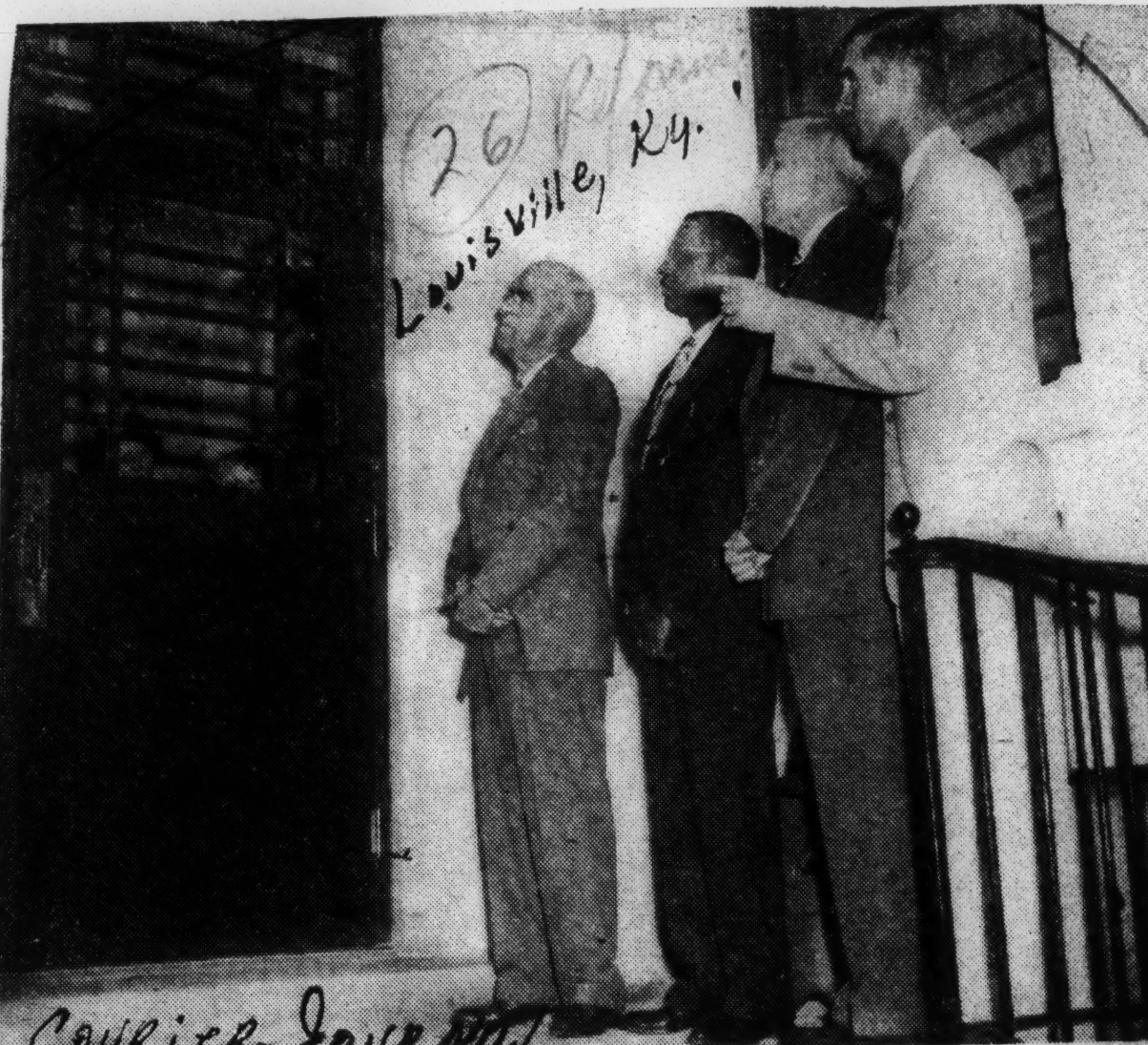
"When a girl is paroled, the community's job only begins," said Mr. Lukas. "It must forget and help her forget, so far as possible, that she has been in a reformatory. Her experience should be looked upon as that of a person who has been seriously ill and in a hospital."

Mr. Lukas said "less than 1 per cent of industry will knowingly employ an ex-convict."

Seven juvenile delinquents had been interviewed by Miss Gordon at the reformatory, at Bedford Hills, and recordings of the interviews were played. The girls, committed for larceny or prostitution, gave their reasons for starting on paths that led to the reformatory.

One girl said she ran away from home because her parents had not given her enough affection while another said she had "no good reason because my family gave me plenty of love and affection." Another girl said she developed an inferiority complex over a hearing defect. A Negro girl said she had been discriminated against in her effort to obtain training as a nurse.

Answering a question by Miss Gordon whether they thought sex instruction should be given in public schools, all the girls said it should.



COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday 7-19-47

Courier-Journal Photo by Joe Reister.

RECONSTRUCTED at a cost of \$280,000, a building housing the Negro girls' dormitory and a hospital at the Kentucky Houses of Reform at Greendale was dedicated yesterday by Governor Simeon Willis. Standing at the entrance to the building are, from left, John Quermous, State commissioner of welfare; Dr. R. B. Atwood, president of Kentucky State College for Negroes; the Governor, and A. G. Hamilton, superintendent at Greendale.

Brutality of Officials Denied by Commissioner

Probe Continues, However, as Escaped Youth Bares Beatings, Perversion, Rotten Food

RICHMOND — While Arthur James, Virginia welfare commissioner, told the AFRO on April 11 that the investigation at Virginia Manual Training School at Hanover is continuing, new and documentary charges of brutality against the school were being made.

Mr. James said he would not

deny categorically that a whipping has taken place at that or any other State schools for incorrigibles, but scored the idea that W. B. Layton, superintendent of the Hanover school, would sanction brutality.

It is conceivable, Mr. James said, that a child at any of the schools gets an occasional "spanking" or "a slap on the face" without any report of the incident being made by the superintendent.

He pointed out, however, that any whipping must be administered in the presence of the superintendent who must report it.

Rough Employee Fired

He cited an instance last year, in which an employee at the school was "let out," because he was a "little too rough."

He emphasized, too, that it is possible for a whipping to take place at any school or other institution under the very eyes of an investigator without him learning about it.

At the time the reporter called, Mr. James was working on a report to the Governor covering the department's policy with respect to all juvenile correctional institutions and citing the philosophy behind that policy.

Perversion Also Charged

The latest blast at the school was made by Howard L. Hensley,

Asked how the beatings were administered, the lad said "The superintendent gets Mr. Hicks to beat us, using a broad leather strap about a yard long, with a hole in one end." Mr. Hicks grips the strap by placing his hand through that hole.

"The boy to be whipped is stripped of all clothing and his head placed between the legs of one boy while four others hold his arms and legs while the beating is being administered by Mr. Hicks."

There is "lots of perversion" going on among the boys at the institution, the youth asserted in a notarized statement given to his attorney, Howard H. Carwile, white, who has led a determined drive for prison reforms in Virginia for several years.

He was beaten twice at the school within two days, once after an escape last August and two days later for smoking, he charged. He added that he suffered a back injury which made him unable to lie on either side up until

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REFORMATORY GIRLS TELL OF HANDICAPS

Fear that their reformatory record would be a handicap in future employment was the principal anxiety expressed by girls at West-

"They had to take him to St. Philip Hospital in Richmond and give him blood transfusions," the lad reported.

He said the boys at the institution donated blood for the transfusion. The leather strap, "like the leather on a horse's bridle, is kept in Mr. Hick's lefthand desk drawer" and "when investigators come around, they lock it up" he declared.

The food "was messy," according to the boy's statement—"salt fish boiled, not fried, corn bread every meal, apricots and rice three times a day. 927.4-19-47

"The corn pone, made with baking powder and water, if thrown against the wall would not break. I found a rat head in the soup."

Alabama Points The Way

Daily World, Atlanta, Ga. 26
After 27 years of faithful service as Superintendent of the Alabama Juvenile Reform School at Mt. Meigs, Alabama, Prof. J. R. Wingfield, Fisk University graduate, was retired last week with appropriate citation for his meritorious service. Prof. Wingfield, who has given a new meaning to the philosophy of Southern reform as it relates to members of the Negro group, was personally cited by retiring Governor Chauncey M. Sparks, following which members of the Board of Directors, in a resolution, lauded him for "his efficiency, his honesty, his business-like administration of affairs, and for his trustworthiness in every respect."

Visitors to the Alabama institution never failed to return with glowing tributes to the utter seriousness, sincerity of purpose and clarity of vision of Prof. Wingfield in the matter of rehabilitating wayward boys and girls to normal, useful and gainfully productive citizens to society. Completely devoid of the chain-gang, boss-driven philosophy and practice, the school has been frequently held up as a model by which other states may be guided in setting up and conducting similar institutions for handling recalcitrant Negro juveniles. The achievement and service of Prof. Wingfield have become so well known that upon his retirement members of the Board of Directors did not hesitate to name in his stead, another Negro, Mr. Amos Parker, for whom the road was paved. *Sun. - 1-26-47*

In contrast to what has been achieved in Alabama is our Reform School for Juveniles in Fulton County. The frightful lack of adequate machinery for the operation and conduct of the Fulton County school has now become an open secret. The building is wholly inadequate. There are absolutely no intelligently planned recreational facilities for the juveniles committed to the institution. The administration staff is made up of white people, whose fitness and special training for such service are conspicuously lacking. One report has come to our attention that the youth committed to the institution are required to perform road service under guarded bosses. A little more than a year ago, despite the fact that the State forbids the use of chains, wide publicity was given to the chaining of one or two Negro boys, reported to have given trouble to officials.

Suggestion of a Negro personnel at the Fulton school has been met with strenuous objection, without any good and sufficient reason.

Sparks Lauds Record Of Retiring Director Of Negro Reformatory

The Advertiser, Montgomery, Ala. Fri. 1-17-47
Governor Chauncey Sparks yesterday presided at a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Juvenile Reform School, when J. R. Wingfield, its Negro superintendent for the past 27 years retired.

The Governor highly commended the retiring superintendent for his long years of loyal service to the institution, and the

Board passed a resolution, in which tribute was paid to Wingfield for the "efficient and businesslike manner of his administration; his honesty and trustworthiness in every respect, and commended him for his efforts in providing for the delinquent boys and girls of his race, giving them an opportunity to become good citizens."

Wingfield, who retires under the State Teachers' Retirement System of the State, was asked to remain at the institution in an advisory capacity, until next

June, to assist his successor, Amos Parker.

Parker joins the staff of the Negro Reformatory from work connected with Farm Extension scheme. *Fri. 1-17-47*

Present at the Board Meeting which took place at the Capitol, in addition to Governor Sparks, were Dr. Frank Tripp, Felix Robinson, Simon Gassenheimer and William Thomas, and the Negro members of the Board, Dr. R. T. Adair, T. M. Campbell, of Tuskegee, and Katie Bowen.

Two Named Trustees Of Mt. Meigs School

Montgomery Advertiser, Ala. 3-27-47
Appointment of two members to the board of trustees for the Alabama Reform School for Juvenile Negro Lawbreakers, Mt. Meigs, to fill terms that had expired was announced yesterday by Governor Folsom.

The new members are M. S. Dees, Mt. Meigs, and Dr. H. R. Wheat, Tuscaloosa. Their terms will expire Jan. 1, 1955.

They succeeded Felix Robinson, Montgomery, and Dr. R. T. Adair, Montgomery Negro.

Reform School Building To Undergo Facelift

Montgomery Advertiser, Ala. 3-27-47
The Civilian Production Administration has construction projects involving expenditure of \$15,000 at the Alabama School for Juvenile Negro Lawbreakers at Mt. Meigs, according to an Associated Press dispatch from Birmingham yesterday.

Dr. Frank Tripp, chairman of the executive committee of the school, said that the project involves remodeling an old building, formerly used as a girl's dormitory. The remodeled building will be used as a dormitory for young boys, separating them from older boys and relieving congestion elsewhere. It will accommodate 60 boys.

Money for the work was allocated by the State Building Commission, Dr. Tripp said.

Mt. Meigs School Job Contract Is Awarded

Montgomery Advertiser, Ala. 3-27-47
Gov. Chauncey Sparks yesterday approved a contract between the Alabama Reform School for Negroes at Mt. Meigs and Sherlock, Smith and Adams, Montgomery architects, for architectural services for repair and reconstruction of a dormitory for young boys at that school.

Dr. John M. Gallalee, State Building Commission technical staff director, who announced the contract, said the commission had allocated \$15,000 for the project.

PROGRESS AT MT. MEIGS

The Montgomery Advertiser, Ala. 3-27-47
The Advertiser has spoken out against the shameful conditions recently found at the Alabama School for Juvenile Negro Law-Breakers at Mt. Meigs, by an interim committee of the Legislature. For joining the members of that committee in condemning the state of affairs in the institution, and calling for their correction, we make no apologies—indeed, we deplore the fact that the great State of Alabama should ever have been responsible for such degraded conditions. *26*

It is unthinkable that Alabama should have so neglected a place where human beings live as to have 322 boys—no matter whether white or colored—crowded into sleeping quarters not adequate even for 100, with as many as three boys assigned to a bed designed for one person. Up until last December there had been no appropriation for buildings or land—all expansion had been managed out of an annual appropriation of only \$50,000, plus what could be made from the farm. *3-7-47*

But in fairness to the Board of Trustees and the management at Mt. Meigs, it should be pointed out that they were well aware of the deficiencies of the institution and had been working to relieve them.

A 16-bed hospital, now under construction, is almost ready for use.

A refrigeration plant, designed to handle meat, vegetables, and milk and dairy products, is two-thirds complete.

A poultry project is getting underway, and the management is working hard to prepare for a more effective program of food production on the farm. Lack of tools and equipment, a severe handicap until now, is being remedied.

While these improvements in health, feeding and work opportunities are basic, it is essential that the State shall provide adequate housing facilities and administrative personnel. Over-crowded conditions for these boys of sub-normal opportunities and behavior is an aggravation of their maladies. The State should operate Mt. Meigs School not as a prison where retarded human beings are gathered to share each other's diseases of mind and body, but as a place where they may have the

chance to cleanse themselves and walk again among their fellows as free men. The Mt. Meigs Board of Trustees, under the chairmanship of Dr. Frank Tripp, has made fine progress during the last year with the money and facilities available. We hope the Legislature will see to it that adequate funds are appropriated so that the institution may very soon be brought up to a standard of which Alabama need not be ashamed. *3-7-47*

Negro School
Led by Representative Charles M. Pinkston, Montgomery, who was made acting head of the committee for the day by Chairman Broughton Lamberth, Alexander City, the group spent the day looking over the institution and listening to comments by Negro Superintendent Amos C. Parker.

Legislative Committee There Says Conditions Are Disgrace To State
Inspecting the Alabama School for Juvenile Negro Law Breakers, at Mt. Meigs yesterday, members of the legislative interim committee on Health, Welfare, Veterans Legislation and everything within their power to correct the conditions make recommendations they found "a shame and conditions they found disgrace to the State of Alabama."

Aid Promised Mount Meigs
However, committee members Among the things the legisla-

Must Buy Food

Rooms Crowded

Parker told the members of the committee that at present he is having to buy most of the food consumed at the school, in spite of the fact that it is located on a 2,300-acre farm composed of what the legislators said is "some of the best farm land to be found in Alabama."

Not only is there not sufficient food grown to feed the personnel at the school, Parker continued, it is necessary to buy feed for the horses, cows and pigs kept by the institution.

One exception was noted by the superintendent, who said he did have enough corn on hand to provide meal and grits for the mess halls.

In addition to the 322 Negro boys at the school, there are 60 girls who live under somewhat the same crowded conditions as the boys, he continued.

Not only do the Negro girls live and eat in the same building, they have to study and go to school there also.

Because of the lack of funds, Parker said the school's work shop is closed and there are no facilities for the institution's personnel and inmates to carry on even a minor maintenance program.

To Learn Trade
He added that with the co-operation of Tuskegee Institute in the near future he is sending 10 boys to that school to take a course in stone block building. With that knowledge, he said, they will be able to return to the school and erect a few small, simple buildings to be used for poultry and other farm necessities.

Lack of funds, Parker told the legislators, also makes it impossible to hire personnel to assist in the school's rehabilitation program. He said salaries for school personnel ran around \$50 to \$60 per month.

Although the school farm is not now producing enough food to furnish the institution, Parker, who has a new farm superintendent, said he thought that situation would be remedied within the next two years.

He pointed out that in the past the emphasis has been on the growing of cotton and not food stuffs.

Limited Diet
As for meals, one of the staff described a typical day's menu as: Breakfast - Cornbread, oatmeal, grits; lunch - cornbread and one to two vegetables; supper - same as lunch.

About the only time the inmates get any meat, he continued, is when it is cooked in the vegetables. And they never get any of the milk from the school's scant dairy herd that produces only 20 gallons of milk daily

from approximately 30 cows.

In the dormitory that houses all the 322 boys now at the institution, the beds are of the double-decker variety, with only a foot or so of space separating them. And in these beds, Parker explained, it is necessary to sleep from two to six boys, three often sleeping in the space intended for one.

Epidemic Danger

Under such conditions it would be impossible to stop an epidemic once it got started, Parker said.

In pointing out the faults of the school, the new superintendent, who took over Feb. 1, asked the legislators to use their influence to promote an increased appropriation for the institution so its standards can be raised.

Pinkston told the committee it was its responsibility to see that the school is built up and conditions improved. Lamberth pledged his support to seek the legislature's assistance to give the school relief.

Continuing its inspections of State institutions, the committee will go to Tuscaloosa today to investigate conditions at the hospital for the insane.

ALABAMA'S SHAME AT MT. MEIGS

Members of the legislative interim committee inspecting the Alabama School for Juvenile Negro Law-Breakers at Mt. Meigs are reported as shocked at conditions they found.

Perhaps a majority of Alabama's people do not know that Alabama has an institution of this kind, an institution intended to help in the rehabilitation of youthful criminals and law-breakers. But it is to be hoped that the findings of the committee will genuinely shock others besides the members of the Legislature.

There is no defense for such conditions. Actually, instead of inculcating respect for law and order and helping to train inmates for useful citizenship, the situation described at the Mt. Meigs Negro reformatory is just about all it could be for producing the opposite results.

The committee found 322 Negro boys crowded into sleeping quarters inadequate for the accommodation of 100—as many as three boys assigned to one bed built for one person. They found inadequate sanitary facilities, inadequate instructional material and equipment, no lockers or storage space for personal effects—not even knives and forks for eating. Only spoons are plentiful enough to go around.

In addition to the lack of facilities and equipment for housing the young Negroes, the committee found the management unable to operate the 2,300-acre farm because of lack of tools and farming equipment. Shops and vocational buildings also are useless because no funds are available for operation.

The interim committee obviously stated it mildly in calling the conditions "a shame and a disgrace to the State of Alabama." It needs no second sight to see that three hundred and more boys, cooped up in cramped quarters with nothing to do or occupy their energies except to eat and live like hogs, constitute a liability to society and to the State of Alabama. The condition must be promptly corrected.

Murder Charged To Negro 8 In Playmate's Death

FLORENCE, Oct. 9—An eight-year-old Negro boy today faced charges of murdering a 14-year-old playmate in an argument over a couple of "funnybooks."

Roscoe Sumter was charged with the killing of Robert Lee Mouzon yesterday after a coroner's inquest had found that the older boy had come to his death from a .22 bullet wound inflicted by Sumter.

City officers said that Mouzon was playing at the Sumter home on Saturday and that a quarrel ensued over possession of some comic books. They said that Sumter became enraged, struck at Mouzon with a table lamp and a broom, and then entered the house with his playmate. A Negro woman across the street heard a shot, after which, officers said, they found Mouzon lying wounded on the floor. He died next day at a local hospital.

The Sumter child has been remanded into custody of his father to await trial, at the next general sessions court.

The Montgomery Advertiser
Living Today
 By ARLIE B. DAVIDSON

GRANDMOTHER'S RELIEF

Houston, Texas.

A 14-year-old Negro girl, diseased and dangerously approaching the stage of clear-cut prostitution, today heard Houston's Juvenile Court judge speak words which would send her to the State Training School for Girls. The girl had discussed her life freely, but with an air of pleasantness, free of bitterness. But she had come to the point where she had made up her mind to reverse her life.

Her grandmother took her as an illegitimate child while an infant. "I have done as much for her as I would for my own child," she said, "but I never know when she is coming in, if at all. It keeps me torn all to pieces inside. My heart is weak and I can't take much more." Even as she spoke she grasped at her heart from time to time and paused in her speech. The mother, still living in a common-law relationship with another man, was on the other side of the girl. She had made no effort to take care of her.

The girl had already stopped school and would not go. She needed to work and help her grandmother, but she did nothing but waste her life here and there as a runaway and a sex delinquent. "You could have been a great help to her," the judge remarked. "Instead, you have caused her all the trouble you could. Is that the way you have thanked her for rearing you?"

The grandmother liked to hear those words, I am sure, for she nodded her head as the judge criticized the conduct of the girl. "Since you will not help at home, you will not work, and since you need to have treatments for your condition, and since you need to go to school, I am sending you to the state school." The judge was calm, but determined. "Now, if you go there and behave yourself, you will not have to stay so long. Otherwise, you may have several years there." At these words, the grandmother was relieved. She did not believe strongly in the new resolution of the girl to change her life, if left here, for she had said that too much before. It was the commitment of the judge to the state school that eased the grandmother's heart. She was going where supervision was certain.

By ARLIE B. DAVIDSON

The Montgomery Advertiser
HE FAKED A FAINT
 By ARLIE B. DAVIDSON

An over-grown 15-year-old Negro boy today was sentenced to the Texas State Training School for Boys, by Judge Perry at the session of the Houston Juvenile Court. In fact, he was just one of four boys who received such an order from the court.

This boy was well known by the Crime Prevention Division of Police Department and the Probation Department of the city and county. Beginning early in his anti-social career, he had come to be a dangerous person at the ripe age of 15 years. Apparently, he had developed the feeling that he could live his life on the earth without restrictions and without regard to the rights of other people. Seated on each side of him was a parent, highly honored and respect-

able, who had been following the activities of their young son with consuming interest and deep concern as he stayed out all hours of the night and day and came home as his spirit directed him. *Sat 8-16-47*

But these parents had done all they could do, they said. Perhaps they as well as the boy had failed, and the time had come for a change in the boy's life. The boy, together with others of his gang, had held up men and boys and robbed them, often at the point of a gun. They were guilty of aggravated assault, of burglary, and of various thefts. The boy had been arrested time and time again and had reported to the Probation Department as instructed. He had made promise after promise that he was through with such life. Yet his promises had meant nothing. "You are going to stop this," said the judge, "at least for a few years, if you don't learn to behave yourself. I am sending you today to the State Training School for Boys." As a final plea for sympathy and another chance, he swooned and lunged limp, face-forward to the floor. But this had happened before. Officers of the court who knew the boy would not be deterred by a faint which was easily seen as a futile fake. At last, he was defeated.

Advertiser
Living Today
 By ARLIE B. DAVIDSON

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY IN ONE CITY

Montgomery Advertiser
 Houston, Texas.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 boys and girls are dealt with each year by the various juvenile courts of the United States. This, however, is only a part of the picture dealing with our boys and girls who are anti-social young citizens. An extremely large number of juvenile violators of our basic codes of conduct are never brought up for court action. Probation officers, as arms of the court, take care of the great majority of the known delinquents, and therefore never get on the court records. Another large group of violators carry on their delinquent conduct of many sorts and are not turned in by special petition or apprehended by any officer of the law. *June 8-17-47*

Houston, Texas, for example, has a big share in the total number of cases of delinquency, yet the court cases are usually small in number for each year. In the year 1946, the Probation Department of Houston and Harris County handled 5,663 cases, 4,346 of whom were boys and 1,292 were girls. In addition, 25 different adults were directly involved in contributing cases of delinquency. These figures represent different individuals, whereas in many cases individuals are repeaters. And yet, of this large number of cases handled only 162 were brought before the juvenile court for commitment. Of this number of court cases 93 were boys and 69 were girls.

All but a small per cent of these cases came from the city of Houston and the immediate metropolitan area. Three main groups represented are whites, Mexicans, and Negroes. True to the general pattern over the country, delinquent boys predominate over the delinquent girls, and about five to one. Likewise, delinquency thrives most where the home is broken or the relations between parents and parents and children are undesirable, where there are

bad companions, and ignorance, bad work habits, ill health, and poverty. But delinquency by no means is confined to these factors.